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Finance Committee Minutes 03-25-2002

ARLINGTON FINANCE COMMITTEE
 MINUTES OF MEETING
 7:30 PM O'Neill room Community Safety Building
 3/25/02

ATTENDEES:

Janowitz*	Feinleib	Kocur*	O'Neill*	Mahoney
DeCoursey*	Connors	Simmons	Morrisette*	
Tosti*	Foskett*	Deyst*	Ronan	
Piandes*	Franclemont		Olsen*	
DuBois*	Howard*	Fanning*	Tosi*	Kneeland*

* Indicates present

VISITORS: Members of the Permanent Town Building Committee John Cole (Chair), Bill Shea

MINUTES of 3/20/02 approved as corrected. Unanimous.

GENERAL: Tosti provided an updated budget summary showing the effect of applying suggestions in the manager's letter of 3/19 (\$330,000 available from previous years' salary warrant articles; \$25,000 to prime the private-way revolving fund) and the Transportation Committee's request under Article 66 for \$50,000. The deficit is now \$1.5 million. He also showed the revised reductions needed to balance the budget.

SCHOOL RENOVATIONS: Cole, using a handout, showed that Arlington costs per square foot compare favorably with costs in surrounding towns and with state averages, though the small size of Peirce inflates its cost about 17%. He also stated that as the Big Dig tapers off, the increase in "early trades" (steel, concrete, etc) is also decreasing. He expects to see similar decreases in all trades over the next year or two. He also explained the PTBC's desire to increase the building schedule from 12 to 18 months. If started in January, a building could be closed in by winter, which would decrease heating costs. Also, there would more flexibility to accommodate unpredictable hazardous-material costs without overtime. Shea provided details on the following requests.

ARTICLE 63 HARDY \$125,000: While repointing the bricks above the 3rd-floor windows, workmen noticed cracks. After investigation, these cracks were found to be caused by weld failures in the window lintels. Only the most dangerous cases were fixed. Estimated cost to fix the remainder is \$75,000. There is also excessive noise in some classrooms. Of the \$47,000 cost to fix, the Town is responsible for \$25,000 to \$30,000 for silencer parts that were not specified. He noted that the PTBC was charged \$47,000 for unbudgeted bonding costs that in previous projects had been absorbed by the lenders. VOTED to recommend bonding up to \$125,000 with reductions if any unused previous bond funds are available. Unanimous.

ARTICLE 74 PEIRCE \$173,000: Disposal of contaminated soil cost \$133,000 and schedule slippage. Overtime being paid to recover to schedule. Unbudgeted bonding cost \$36,000. Contingency inadequate. No excessive noise problem expected. VOTED to recommend bonding up to \$173,000 with reductions if any unused previous bond funds are available. Unanimous.

BRACKETT NOISE PROBLEM: The PTBC has spent \$50,000 of the \$100,000 of free cash it received last year. The architect will refund the town. The noise meets national standards, but the blowers which are running at less than full speed may not be delivering enough air. If blowers need to be speeded up, there may be new noise problems. Some of the "noise" may be structural vibration. Cost effective for town to pay contractor now rather than contracting later with a different firm. VOTED to allow the PTBC to retain the unspent \$50,000 on condition that the FinCom be informed if any expenditures will not be refunded by the architect.

ARTICLE 66 TRANSPORTATION STUDY: General discussion. FinCom would like to read report from FY02 study before recommending further expenditures. Kneeland to call Ed Starr to request report.

BUDGET 2 SELECTMEN: Gen Govt SubCom (DuBois) provided a handout with many corrections to the budget book. A recommendation to remove the Special Town Meeting item from the budget was rejected by the FinCom. VOTED \$304,043 Unanimous.

BUDGET 4 PERSONNEL: The Personnel SubCom (ONeill) made several corrections to the budget book. VOTED \$130,998 Unanimous

M SCHEDULE: Some members feel strongly that large management merit increases are not appropriate in a year when deep cuts are likely. After some discussion, the FinCom decided to postpone further discussion and possible action until Janowitz verifies the available M Schedule information w/ the Deputy Town Manager.

RESERVE FUND BALANCE: \$231,272

Peter B. Howard, Secretary 3/26/02

Budget & Article Action Summary

Bud #	Date of presentation	Date of vote	\$	Vote	Art#	Date of presentation	Date of vote	\$	Vote/ assigned to
1	2/4	2/4	11257	Unanimous	19				
2	3/25	3/25	304043	Unanimous	20				
3	2/20	2/20	308314	Unanimous	21	3/20	3/20	Supp BOS	Unanimous
4	3/25	3/25	130998	Unanimous	22	3/11	3/11	Informal	Support
5	3/13	3/13	888929	Unanimous	24	2/11, 3/12			No report

6	3/13	3/13	558638	Unanimous	31				
7	3/13	3/13	154733	Unanimous	32				
8	3/13	3/13	265702	Tabled	33				
9	2/20	2/20	693368	Unanimous	34	1/28	3/20	Supp BOS	11-2
10	2/20	2/20	190596	Unanimous	35	2/11		BOS	
11	2/20	2/20	91838	Unanimous	38	1/28, 3/13	2/4	No report	Unanimous
12	3/13	3/13	77645	Unanimous	39	1/28			Foskett
13					40	1/28			
14	2/20	2/20	340727	Unanimous	41				No settle
15	2/20	2/20	19570	Unanimous	42				No settle
16					43				No settle
17a	3/11	3/11	291028	Unanimous	44				No settle
17b	3/11	3/11	4856628	Unanimous	45				No settle
17c	3/11	3/11	4757069	Unanimous	46				No settle
17d	3/11	3/11	728035	Unanimous	47				No settle
18a					48				No settle
18b	3/11	3/11	422500	Unanimous	49	3/20			
19					50				
20	2/20	2/20	1616142	Unanimous	52	2/27	2/27	7209284	Unanimous
21a	2/20	2/20	103030	Unanimous	53	1/28	2/4	Approve	Unanimous
21b	2/20	2/20	187045	Unanimous	54	3/6			
21c	2/20	2/20	175726	Unanimous	55				
21d	2/20	2/20	146692	Unanimous	56				
22					59	3/20	3/20	No action	Unanimous
23					60	3/20			
24					61	3/20			
25	2/11		9866370	Tabled	62	2/20	2/20	Favor Act	Unanimous
26					63	2/25	2/25	\$125 max	Unanimous
W/S					64	3/13		no plan	tabled
Rec	2/20	2/20	-9071	Unanimous	65		2/11	No action	Unanimous
Rnk	2/20	2/20	-77	Unanimous	66	3/20		\$50k	Kneeland
COA	2/20	2/20	-2150	Unanimous	67	3/20			No info
YS	2/20	2/20	263844	Unanimous	68	3/20			No info
					69				
					70				
					71				
					72				
					73				
					74	3/25	3/25	\$173k max	Unanimous